

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application;

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously amended) A method comprising:

identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure ~~associated with terms~~ in a document, the implicitly defined semantic structure including a first term and a second term;

~~determining whether a first relationship or a second relationship exists between a~~
location of the first term and a location of the second term within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

selecting one of a plurality of rules based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

determining a ~~first~~ distance value between the first and second terms ~~when the first relationship exists between the first and second terms~~ using the selected rule; and

~~determining a second distance value between the first and second terms when the second relationship exists between the first and second terms, wherein the first and second distance values differ; and~~

outputting the first distance value ~~or the second distance value~~ to rank the document for relevancy to a search query that includes ~~at least the first term and the second term.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the document is a~~ being an HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) document.
3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the implicitly defined semantic structure includes a list created with HTML tags.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
locating explicitly defined semantic structures.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ implicitly defined semantic ~~structures include lists~~ structure including a list.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the first and second~~ distance ~~values are~~ value being calculated as a word count between ~~pairs of~~ the first and second terms in the document augmented by ones of the rules related to the implicitly defined semantic structure.
8. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the implicitly defined semantic structure includes:

identifying repeating occurrences of a set of two or more text formatting commands.

9. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the implicitly defined semantic structure includes a title or a heading.

10. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

means for identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in a document;

means for determining ~~whether a first~~ location relationship ~~or a second relationship that~~ exists between a pair of the terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

means for determining ~~a first distance value between the pair of terms when~~ which one of a number of rules corresponds to the first location relationship exists ~~between the pair of terms;~~

means for determining a ~~second~~ distance value between the pair of terms ~~when the second relationship exists between the pair of terms, where the first and second distance values differ~~ based on the one rule;

means for generating a ranking score for the document based on the ~~first distance value or the second distance value;~~ and

means for outputting the ranking score.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in a plurality of documents;

locating a first term and a second term occurring within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

selecting, based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms, at least one of a number of rules to be used in determining a distance value between the first and second terms;

~~determining, using the at least one rule, a first or second the distance value between the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure that when the first and second terms occur in a search query, where the first distance value is based on a first relationship that exists between the terms and the second distance value is based on a second relationship that exists between the terms, where the first and second distance values differ;~~

ranking the documents for relevancy to ~~[[a]]~~ the search query based on ~~one of the determined distance values~~ value; and

outputting the rankings of the documents in response to the search query.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein the~~ determining the first and second distance values includes value including:

determining whether ~~one or more of the~~ first and second terms are present within a list.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the list is implicitly defined.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, ~~wherein the~~ determining the first and second distance values value further includes including:

assigning a distance value indicative of closeness when ~~[[two]]~~ first and second terms are present in a same item of the list.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the implicitly defined semantic structure is identified prior to the ranking.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

19. (Previously amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the implicitly defined semantic structure includes lists created with HTML tags.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the HTML tags include paragraph

tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein the~~ determining the ~~first and second distance values includes value including:~~

determining whether ~~one or more of the~~ first and second terms are present within a title or heading.

22. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory to:

identify a semantic structure associated with terms occurring in a [[of]] document;

determine ~~whether a first relationship or a second relationship exists~~ various distance relationships that exist between the terms in the identified semantic structure;

select one of a plurality of rules that corresponds to each of the distance relationships;

determine, using the selected rule, semantically based ~~first or second~~ distance values between those of the terms that occur in a search query ~~when the first or second relationship exists, respectively, wherein the first and second distance values differ;~~

rank the ~~documents~~ document for relevancy to the search query based on one of the ~~determined first or second~~ semantically based distance values; and
provide at least some of the ranks in response to the search query.

23. (Currently amended) The device of claim 22, ~~wherein~~ the processor being further configured to:

~~locates~~ locate implicitly defined semantic structures in the ~~documents~~ document;
and

~~[[uses]]~~ use the implicitly defined semantic structures in determining the
semantically
based distance values.

24. (Currently amended) The device of claim 22, ~~wherein~~ the processor being further configured to:

~~receives~~ receive the search query ~~that contains the terms~~.

25. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a search query;
identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in
documents;

determining ~~whether a first relationship or a second relationship exists~~ a semantic based distance between a first term and a second term within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

selecting one of a plurality of rules based on the semantic based distance between the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

determining, ~~using the selected rule, first and second a distance values value~~ for the first and second terms ~~based on the first relationship or the second relationship;~~

ranking the documents for relevancy to the search query based on the ~~first distance value or the second distance value;~~ and

presenting the documents in an order influenced by the ranking.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ the implicitly defined semantic structures ~~include lists~~ structure including a list created with HTML tags.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
locating explicitly defined semantic structures.